

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An easy-to-open tubular sealed casing for packaging a content therein, the casing comprising:

5 a base film comprising a composite plastic film with at least three film layers including an outer layer film which forms an outer surface when the composite plastic film is formed into a tubular form, an intermediate layer film which forms an intermediate layer and an inner layer film, said composite plastic film being formed into a tubular form by bending said base film, overlaying two edges of said base film and heat-sealing the overlaid section so that a not heat-sealed section will be left along an edge of the outer film, said not-sealed section being of a size
→ to be held by finger for opening, an I-shaped notch is provided in an edge of said not-sealed
10 section, a peel strength between said outer layer film and said intermediate layer film being set to a lower level as compared to a peel strength between said inner layer film and said intermediate layer film, said three film layers and said heat-sealed section being arranged to cause said outer layer film to be disrupted and then peeled from said intermediate film layer when the casing is opened.

2. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 1, wherein the peel strength between the outer layer film and the intermediate layer film is set to a range from 10 to 2000 g/15 mm.

3. (Canceled) ✓

4. (Canceled) ✓

5. (Canceled) ✓

6. (Currently Amended) An easy-to-open tubular sealed casing for packaging a content therein, the casing comprising:

→ a base composite plastic film comprising an outer layer film, an inner layer film and an intermediate layer film between said outer layer film and said inner layer film, said composite plastic film being formed into a tubular form by bending said base film and overlaying two edges of said base film and heat-sealing the overlaid section to form a heat sealed section and a not heat-sealed section outward of said heat sealed section, a peel strength between said outer layer film and said intermediate layer film being set to a lower level as compared to a peel strength between said inner layer film and said intermediate layer film.

7. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 6, wherein the peel strength between the outer layer film and the intermediate layer film is set to a range from 10 to 2000 g/15 mm.

8. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 6, further comprising opening facilitating structures provided at or adjacent to said heat-sealed section or along an edge thereof.

9. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 7, further comprising opening facilitating structures provided at or adjacent to said heat-sealed section or along an edge thereof.

10. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 9, wherein said opening facilitating structures include a V-shaped notch, an I-shaped notch, or a flaw in the film.

11. (Previously Added) A tubular sealed casing comprising:
an intermediate layer with first and second sides;

a first layer arranged on said first side of said intermediate layer, said first layer being connected to said intermediate layer at a first peel strength;

a second layer arranged on said second side of said intermediate layer, said second layer being connected to said intermediate layer at a second peel strength, said second peel strength being greater than said first peel strength.

12. (Currently Amended) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said first, second and intermediate layers are formed into a tubular form by curving said layers and overlapping two portions of said layers, said two portions being arranged to have said first layer of one portion contact said second layer of the other said portion;

a heat sealing connection connects connecting said first layer of said one portion to said

second layer of said other portion ~~said overlapping two portions of said layers.~~

13. (Previously Added) A casing in accordance with claim 12, wherein:
said heat sealing connection is arranged spaced from edges of said layers.

14. (Previously Added) A casing according to claim 13, wherein:
an opening facilitating structure is arranged at one of said edges of said layers.

15. (Previously Added) A casing according to claim 14, wherein:
said opening facilitating structure is one of a V-shaped notch, an I-shaped notch, or a
flaw in said layers.

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16. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said first and second layers are heat sealable to each other.

17. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said intermediate layer is a gas barrier.

18. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said intermediate layer is a UV ray absorber.

19. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said first and second layers are formed of polypropylene

20. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said intermediate layer is formed of nylon.

21. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 19, wherein:
said intermediate layer is formed of nylon.

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22. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 21, wherein:
said polypropylene of said first and second layers are not extended;
said nylon of said intermediate layer is extended.

23. (New) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said first and second layers are formed from substantially identical materials;
said first and second layers are differently connected to said intermediate layer to have
said second peel strength be greater than said first peel strength.
